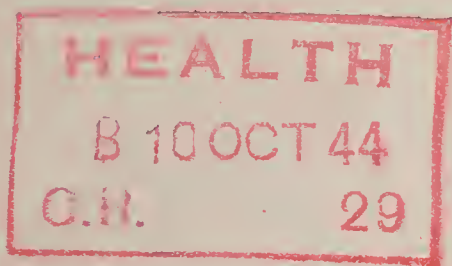


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Truro Rural District Council.



PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

For 1943

A. R. FULLER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

SOLOMON & METZ, PRINTERS.

Truro Rural District Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT YEAR 1943

Public Health Officers. Medical Officer (part time), holds diploma of Public Health, is also District Medical Officer (Perranzabuloe District) and Public Vaccinator for Perranzabuloe and St. Allen Parishes.

Sanitary Inspector. Mr. E. R. C. Harvey, Associate Royal Sanitary Institute, whole time. Appointed Meat Inspector under the 1934 Public Health Meat Regulations. Inspector under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. Inspector under County of Cornwall Act, 1929. (Ice Cream).

Additional Sanitary Inspector Mr. J. N. Connell, A.R.S.I., whole time.

Meat Inspector, Mr. G. T. Carter, is employed whole time at the Government Slaughterhouse.

The salaries of the first three officers are contributed to by the Ministry, under the Public Health Acts, or by Exchequer grants.

To the Chairman and Members of the

Rural District Council of Truro.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of your district for 1943.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Area 106,504 acres.

Population : —

Continued quiet during most of the year saw a further large number of evacuees of all ages returning to their homes.

As a result the estimated mid-population would again be considerably in excess of that at the end of the year.

The proportion of elderly and infirm people among those evacuated remained high and also of school children who needed special help and care.

The area usually receiving thousands of summer visitors had even fewer than the previous year but very considerable numbers of service personnel were stationed in many districts.

Owing to war conditions corrected death returns are not included and vital statistics cannot be fairly compared with pre-war figures.

Although there was an appreciable rise in the death rate the year may be regarded as being a healthy one and the general health of the population as remaining extremely good even at the start of the fifth year of war.

There was no evidence of any increase of malnutrition or lack of resistance to disease in general, these two facts proving how successfully the dietary of the population had been balanced and maintained.

Conditions still only allow a short report and as in 1942 there has been no important change in health services.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births :	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
Legitimate	341	182	159
Illegitimate	25	17	8
	—	—	—
Totals	366	199	167

Live Birth Rate—13·3 per 1,000 of the population.

The improvement in the birth rate is welcome and is due in part to many expectant mothers coming into the area.

The preponderance of male babies 23 is worthy of note as a large drop from the previous year.

The increase in illegitimate births is not large and the presence of the Rosemundy Home in the area has to be remembered when considering the figures.

Illegitimate Live Birth Rate 69 per 1,000 live births.

STILL BIRTHS.	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	7	5	12
Illegitimate	—	2	2
	—	—	—
Totals	7	7	14

Still Birth Rate :—·51 per 1,000 of the population.

Deaths :	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
	173	193	366

Crude Death Rate :—13·3 per 1,000 of the population.

This figure is misleading as already mentioned.

Note the great increase of 30 in deaths, 10 male and 20 female.

Death of Infants under 1 year of age :—

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	7	6	13
Illegitimate	1	—	1

Infantile Mortality Rate 38 per 1,000 live births.

This rate compares with 49 for the country as a whole and shows a decrease from the year previous, which was 45.

The following death rates for certain diseases are worthy of comparison with those of the Country as a whole ; being the rate per 1,000 of the population.

Typhoid Fever	'03	England and Wales	'00
Measles	'00	„	'02
Scarlet Fever	'00	„	'00
Whooping Cough	'00	„	'03
Diphtheria	'00	„	'03
Influenza	'40	„	'37
Diarrhoea, Infantes	2'8	„	5'3
under 2 years		per 1,000 live births	

All rates except one equal to or below the country as a whole.

Heart disease accounts for almost a third of the total deaths a tremendous increase on the previous year, which is accompanied by the fall of cancer deaths of only a small percentage. Deaths from tuberculosis are fewer but as a percentage of all deaths the figure is unchanged.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 live and still births.
Puerperal Infection & post abortion sepsis	—	Nil
Other causes Maternal	1	2'9
Total	1	2'9

This is a satisfactory figure and compares well with that for other parts.

Detailed Analysis of Causes of Deaths.

CAUSES OF DEATH		MALES	FEMALES
ALL CAUSES		173	193
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers . .	—	1
2	Cerebrospinal Fever ...	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever ...	—	—
4	Whooping Cough ...	—	—
5	Diphtheria ...	—	—
6	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	4	6
7	Other Forms of Tuberculosis ...	4	—
8	Syphilitic Diseases ...	1	1
9	Influenza ...	4	7
10	Measles ...	—	—
11	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ...	—	—
12	Acute Inf. Encephalitis ...	—	—
13	Cancer of Mouth and Throat (male) and Uterus (female) ...	4	8
14	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	6	2
15	Cancer of Breast ..	—	8
16	Cancer of all other sites ...	11	20
17	Diabetes ...	1	5
18	Intracranial Vascular Lesions ...	12	28
19	Heart Disease ...	56	54
20	Other Disease of Circulation ...	3	2
21	Bronchitis ...	5	3
22	Pneumonia ...	7	4
23	Other Respiratory Diseases ...	4	1
24	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	2	—
25	Diarrhoea, under 2 years ...	—	1
26	Appendicitis ...	1	2
27	Other Digestive Diseases ...	3	8
28	Nephritis ...	8	9
29	Puerperal and Post Abortion Sepsis ...	—	—
30	Other Maternal Causes ...	—	1
31	Premature Birth ...	3	5
32	Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries, etc. ...	2	—
33	Suicide ...	3	1
34	Road Traffic Accidents ...	1	1
35	Other Violent Causes ...	7	1
36	All other Causes ...	21	22

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA:—

Water Supplies. Luck of winter rainfall again reflected in the resources of water supply throughout the district, both privately owned sources—such as Wells and those for which the Council is responsible. In no part of the area, save in one of two isolated cases, was the position such as to cause hardship, although in many villages, which are supplied from the proverbial village Pumps, people had to go further afield for their water, which in many cases caused inconvenience.

The Council have piped supplies in Perranzabuloe, St. Agnes and St. Just-in-Roseland—St. Mawes, whilst in the villages of Portscatho, Portloe and Flushing there are small gravitation supplies, piped through the streets and water is mainly drawn from Standpipes.

The remaining villages and hamlets are supplied by Wells, both private and publicly owned.

At Perranzabuloe and St. Agnes the Reservoir capacity is very restricted—less than one day's normal consumption—and it would appear that sooner or later the Council will have to consider putting up storage Reservoirs, which could be built up in the winter and so ensure a reserve to fall back on in times when resources diminish to such an extent as to be only equal to consumption.

In order to augment the Perranzabuloe supply the Council are carrying out exploratory work at Treamble. This consists of sinking a shaft to a depth of 60 feet in rock and at the bottom they are driving an Adit which it is hoped will eventually tap the water which is held by the Perran Iron Lode.

The emergency plant put down at Mount Tunnel some 7 years since has been working satisfactorily and without this source the position in the Parish would be serious.

At St. Agnes all the sources were fully taxed to maintain a constant supply.

Whilst at St. Mawes the emergency works at Trethern saved the situation.

Flushing again had a restricted supply during many months in the year.

At Kea—Playing Place—the Council are at the moment going forward with the Scheme for supplying this locality by bringing water in bulk from Truro Water Co. Until the completion of the scheme the Council are continuing to transport water from Truro, a very costly business.

No material extension of water mains, other than that now being carried out at Kea—Playing Place, have been undertaken.

Schools. Nothing has been done to remedy the lack of adequate water supply and sanitation, which have been noted in previous Reports.

Rivers and Streams. No complaint has been received of the pollution of Rivers or Streams.

Scavenging. The regular collection of House Refuse from all the villages and hamlets in the area has been maintained.

Semi-controlled tipping on tips removed from neighbouring dwellings is adopted.

Sewerage and Sewage Works. No extensions of sewers has been undertaken during the year.

The works and machinery have been maintained in thorough working order.

Salvage of Waste Materials. Regular collections of Waste Paper, Bones, Rubber, etc. have been made in accordance with a "direction" made by the Ministry of Supply.

FOOD.

Milk. Inspections have been carried out on Farms and premises where Milk is produced and handled. In many cases the lack of an adequate supply of water mitigates against the sterilisation of dairy utensils.

Tinned Foods. Very small quantities of tinned food unfit for human consumption, have been condemned.

Meat. The only Slaughterhouse, at present in use, is at Chacewater. Here the whole of the meat for Truro City and the Rural District is slaughtered. Some improvement in the general conditions in which the Slaughterhouse is maintained, in comparison with previous years is noticeable. Complaints from near-by residents have not been so many as in preceeding years.

The Council have a qualified Meat Inspector, whole time, at the Slaughterhouse.

The number of Animals inspected were :—

Cattle 2170.	Calves 1692.
Sheep 5090.	Pigs 296.

Carcases condemned :—

Cows 106.	Heifers 19.	Steers 14.	Bulls 2.
Calves 8.	Lambs 8.	Sheep 30'	Pigs 19.

Organs etc. condemned :—

Ox Livers 703.	Part Livers 1,500.
Hearts and Lungs 317.	Heads 326. Lungs 123.
Skirts 147.	Fores 14. Sheep Plucks 215.
Livers (Sheep) 158.	Pigs Heads 22.
Pig Plucks 33.	

Cans of Corned Beef 153.

General Oddments :— Bruises, Broken Legs etc. 3382 lbs.

Total weight of meat etc. condemned 43'3 tons.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis during 1943

DISEASE	Total cases Notified.	Cases admit- ted to Hospital	Deaths
Measles	106	—	—
Small-Pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	12	5	—
Diphtheria	4	4	—
Enteric (including paratyphoid)	3	3	1
Pneumonia	19	6	11
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	2	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Menegitis	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	53	—	—

Infectious Diseases. During the year 107 visits were made to cases of infectious disease.

A moderate rise occurred in the numbers of cases of Measles, cases mostly being of a mild type.

A small decline in cases of Scarlet fever mild in type occurred and a seventy-five per cent reduction in diphtheria, due largely to the immunization campaign carried out and the efforts made to get the babies immunised as they become one year old. This must be continued if the present satisfactory state is to be maintained. Cases of Whooping cough were half that of the year before and those of pneumonia notified also shewed a reduction.

There was one death from typhoid fever contracted outside the area. A small outbreak of para B typhoid occurred in which most of the 11 cases developed the disease after they returned home from their summer holiday, hence the notifications in this area are two only. Considerable investigation led to the discovery of a healthy carrier who helped with the milk on a farm which supplied accommodation milk in small amount to a farmer who retailed milk.

These investigations revealed the danger of bottle milk of the highest quality if the bottles are not properly cleaned and sterilised.

Scabies was prevalent until April and again in the last 4 months of the year. There was an increase in return cases when the clothes and bedding were not stoved. Fear of the stygma attached to having this disease still prevents adults getting early and adequate treatment.

Less impetigo and fewer dirty heads were found from school and other examinations of children.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1943

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Totals ...	13	10	—	—	4	3	4	—

Tuberculosis. Owing in part to the disease in the population there is a welcome slight drop in notifications and deaths. A complete reversal in the sex distribution shows how unwise it is to draw deductions from a small number over such a short period. The need for ample and suitable accommodation for tuberculosis cases and proper care and supervision of the advanced cases is an absolute necessity if the spread of this disease is to be restricted.

A. RADBURNE FULLER.

